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Montana's Foster Parent

1974

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challenging

Ann Burds — Social and Rehabilitation Services, 836 Front Street — Helena, Montana

October - November, 1973

Dear Foster Parents:

On my way to attend a foster parent training session in Glasgow, I stopped in Great Falls and Havre at the County Social Services Departments.

In Great Falls, I talked with Mrs. Sawyer about their foster parent association and she said that she would be willing to hold a reception for all the foster parents in the Great Falls area in their new office. This could be very advantageous for everyone. Since this reception is only in the planning process, I would strongly recommend the foster parents in Great Falls who are interested to contact Mrs. Sawyer for details.

On October 5, 1973, I met with some foster parents in Havre who are interested in starting an association. We discussed some of the proper channels to go through and the initial groundwork that needs to be done in order to set up an association on the local level. I was very impressed with their enthusiasm and cohesiveness. Keep it up!

At the training session in Glasgow, I met with more foster parents and caseworkers who are also interested in starting an association. I happily found them to be just as enthusiastic as the group in Havre. I would also like to commend the group on a fine training session.

So, all in all, it looks like there will be some great foster parent groups starting up in the near future.

Again, I would like to reiterate what I said in my last newsletter - if any foster parents are interested in starting an association, I'd be more than happy to help in any was possible. I enjoy traveling, so don't feel inhibited to contact me because of your location in the state.

Happy Thanksgiving on the 22nd.

Ann Burds

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Remember --- For each minute people are angry, they manage to lose 60 seconds of happiness.

D I S C I P L I N E

Discipline should be viewed as a continuum. The desirable movement is from discipline, which is administered externally, toward self discipline. Discipline is an essential aspect of child rearing; and it should be viewed as a learning experience so that the child will develop accepted pattern of behavior and an understanding or responsibility and accepted rules of conduct. Therefore, the purpose of discipline is to teach the child to get along as a member of a family and community, and eventually to be a responsible mature adult.

There are many methods of discipline, and the appropriate type should be selected for each individual child. It is recommended that there be joint discussions between the foster parents and social worker as to the appropriate discipline and management plan for each foster child. This should be included at the time of initial placement, as well as during ongoing supervision of the child while in the foster home. Often, because of the special behavioral problems of some foster children, it is necessary for foster parents and social workers to work together in finding an effective means of discipline for a specific child.

At the time of a child's removal from the foster home, information regarding the child's behavior and the most effective method of discipline for him should be provided by the foster parents so that this information can be passed on to the next parents - whether they are natural parents, adoptive parents, or other foster parents.

The following are suggested considerations for determining an effective means of child discipline.

1. Consider the child's age and level of social, intellectual and emotional maturity.

2. Both the parents and the child need to talk and listen to one another for an understanding of how the other thinks and feels.

3. Establish definite limits and guidelines expected for the child's behavior and let the child know he will have to assume the responsibility of the consequences if his behavior is outside the established limits and guidelines.

4. The child should understand the reason for disciplinary action.

The following punishments are deemed inappropriate:

1. Corporal punishment inflicted in any manner upon the body.

2. Threats or derogatory remarks against the child or his natural parents.

3. The depriving of meals.

4. The depriving of visits with natural parents.

5. Verbal abuse.

6. Unusual, unnecessary, or severe punishment.

7. Isolation of child by placing him alone in a room by himself for a long period of time.

Things To Do On A Rainy Day

FINGERPAINTING

Starch and Soap Flakes Paint

Boil 7 cups of water
Add 1 1/2 cups of starch
Add 1 1/2 cups soap flakes (not soap powder)

Mix starch with enough cold water and cook until glossy. Stir in soap flakes while mixture is warm. When cool, add coloring (powder paint or food coloring). Mixture can be kept for a week if placed in a jar with a tight lid.

HOME MADE BUBBLES

1 cup Joy liquid detergent
2 tablespoons sugar or glycerine

Mix together well

Make a ring of wire to use with.

SALT DOUGH (Recipe 1)

Mix 4 cups salt and 1 cup cornstarch with sufficient water to form a paste Cook over medium heat stirring constantly. This is not sticky like flour dough and will not get moldy because of high salt content.
Note: coffee grounds, sand, cornmeal, etc. can be added to any dough recipe to provide texture and variety when dried.

SALT FLOUR CLAY (Recipe 2)

3 cups flour
3/4 cup salt
1/2 tsp. oil

enough water for right consistency

Mix ingredients together. Store in an air tight container. A tablespoon of powdered alum may be added to increase the volumn. Add coloring with flour and salt before adding water if powdered paint is used. If food coloring is used, add this to the water before mixing with dry ingredients.

N.B.: Tempera paint is better than food coloring. Dry tempera washes from clothes and does not stain. It also keeps for a long time. You can get red, yellow and blue. These can be mixed to produce secondary colors.

PUBLICATIONS FOR FOSTER PARENTS

Order From: Publications Service
Child Welfare League of America, Inc.
67 Irving Place
New York, New York 10003

Add 10% to the total bill for postage and handling. Make checks payable to Publications Service.

E - 10 HELPING THE CHILD TO USE FOSTER FAMILY CARE, By Marie H. O'Connell. 39 pp. $1

This booklet was originally prepared as a teaching aid for child welfare caseworkers. It describes the worker's responsibilities to parents, foster parents and their children, and to the foster child.

F - 14 A MANUAL FOR FOSTER PARENTS, By a committee of the Child Welfare League of America. 8 pp. 25¢

This is not a written manual, but a sample outline, in a handy form, of the kind of necessary information that foster parents should have from their agency.

F - 17 SOME TRAUMATIC EFFECTS OF SEPARATION AND PLACEMENT, By Ner Littner. 32 pp. 70¢

Dr. Ner Littner, who has had a great deal of experience in foster care agencies, tells here what happens psychologically to a child when he is separated from his family, how he tries to deal with it, and how his social worker and foster family can help him.

F - 22 CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA STANDARDS FOR FOSTER FAMILY CARE SERVICE, 76 pp. $1.50

Written and published by the Child Welfare League of America, the Standards offer a model for agencies to follow in providing service of the highest quality.

F - 36 REFLECTIONS ON FOSTER CARE, By Helen D. Stone, 40 pp. $1

Many foster family agencies were asked searching questions about their services and practices. Their replies are condensed in this booklet, with recommendations for improving their work.

F - 44 ON FOSTERING: 15 ARTICLES BY AND FOR FOSTER PARENTS $2.00

Reflecting the variety and scope of material appearing in recent years in CHILD WELFARE league publications on matters that are always present in foster family living, this new 90-page volume is part of CWLA's development of a literature for foster parents. The articles have appeared during the last three years in CHILD WELFARE & "Foster Care in Question." Introduction by Carl Schoenberg, Director of Publications of the CHILD WELFARE League.

F - 42 Conversations No. 2 To : Foster Parents
From : Mary Reistroffer
Subject: WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT TEENAGERS? $1.50

Mary Restroffer again talks with foster parents, focusing in this second booklet on the particular problems of the teenager: cosmetics, drugs, turning down the agency, underachieving in school, using the foster name, and many others. Foster parents whose children are - or will soon be - teenagers will all recognize these close-to-home concerns.

A Statewide Step....

On October 20th, a meeting was held in Helena to discuss and show ideas about the foster care programs throughout the state.

In the morning, Mr. Joe Connell, foster care coordinator for the Helena - Lewis and Clark County area, explained his method of a new approach to bring foster parents into the program. After much discussion and careful planning, he set up a program consisting of orientation, education, and evaluation for the licensing of all new interested foster parents.

Joe Connell plans to involve some of the in-service foster parents with the training sessions also, in the role of consultants. The sessions should be taking place around the first two weeks in December.

After this, Mr. John Lombardo, president of the Lewis and Clark Foster Parent Association presented a plaque honoring Mr. Joe Roe, who recently retired from his position as Bureau Chief of the Child Welfare Services Bureau, in appreciation for his many dedicated years in child care.

Next, Mrs. Marietta Eby, president of the Big Sky Foster Home Association, talked about their association in Billings. She explained many of the social functions they have held at past meetings, their activities during National Action for Foster Parents Week in April, some of their money making projects, and car pools and babysitting services which the association provides. Their first interest is to involve foster children so the greatest majority of their programs center around this aspect.

After a lunch break, Mrs. Jessie Schlinger, president of the Flathead Foster Parent Association, explained the organization in the Kalispell area. She stressed the need for good monthly programs, whether educational or social, in order to maintain interest and involvement with as many foster parents as possible. Their various activities include a newsletter, monthly meetings, and an auxillary group called Foster Friends. Mrs. Schlinger also encouraged everyone to make an effort to attend the National Foster Parents Convention in Spokane to be held in April of '74.

Next, Norma Cutone, Social Services Specialist at the State SRS Office, endorsed the plan of a state-wide organization and pledged agency support in this area. She also explained some of the aspects of a foster parent liability insurance program and recommended that it be given serious consideration and referred it to the State SRS Attorney to find any possible discrepancy. The policy will be given further consideration before any definite decisions are made.

After this, a general discussion was held to decide whether or not a state foster parent organization should be formed. Some thoughts that were brought up were:

1. Ideas on local associations could be shared on a state-wide level.

2. A strong lobbying group could be formed in the future so that foster parents would be organized as a pressure group when legislature is in session. An increase in foster parents rates and the subsidized adoption bill have already been passed because of interested foster parents in the state. As a state organization, the unity would be much stronger for future legislation.

3. Also, and most importantly, since foster children are top priority, a state organization would unify foster parents who all have one thing in common - foster children.

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These are just a few of the thoughts which resulted in the ultimate plan to set up a steering committee to form a state organization. The following people volunteered to be on this committee:

1.	Mr. and Mrs. John Lombardo	1934 Hauser	Helena
2.	Mrs. Marietta Eby	Rt. 3 Pioneer Rd	Billings
3.	Mrs. Jessie Schlinger	437 Somers	Whitefish
4.	Mrs. Edith West	140 Riverview 1 N.	Great Falls
5.	Mrs. Wanda Wait	1323½ 10th Ave. SW	Great Falls
6.	Mr. and Mrs. Les Hudson	Box 516	Malta
7.	Mrs. Anita Simonson	34 Perth	Glasgow
8.	Mr. and Mrs. Russ Josephson	1850 Sierra Drive	Helena

Please feel free to contact the representative in your area if you have any ideas on what you think a state organization should consist of. A meeting is scheduled for November 10 where Mr. Aubrey Kellog, regional vice-president of the National Foster Parent Association will offer direction to this steering committee.

The meeting was brought to a conclusion with a short speech by Mr. John Lombardo. He summarized the general feeling that was brought about and grew throughout the day, "We're here because of what we can do for each other." It might be a long hard struggle to achieve our final goal, but time, patience, and enthusiasm can and will lead to a strong state foster parent organization in the future.

Suggestion sheets were passed out at the end of the session and there was an overwhelming favorable response to this first meeting. As a result, a similar meeting will probably be planned for next spring.

If you have any further questions or comments about the state organization, please contact Ann Burds or Norma Cutone at the state SRS office. We would be happy to help you.

Every day is a stepping stone across
life's rushing stream - bringing its
opportunities.

We work, we strive, we dream and
sometimes all goes well.

The passing days no troubles bring.
But there are times when winds are
rough and skies are menacing.

Every day is a stepping stone
We cross from side to side but whether
in the shallows or in waters deep and
wide - there comes a point, where we
no longer all can stand.
A place where we need strength and
comfort of a helping hand.

Anonymous

State of Montana
Social and Rehabilitation Services
P. O. Box 1723
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ATTN: Ann Burds

FIRST CLASS